

Serial No. 10/533,910

Attorney Docket No. 24-023-TN

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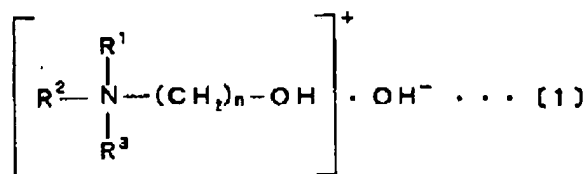
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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing corrosion of metal in a steam generating unit, comprising:

preparing a quaternary ammonium compound described by general formula [1] below:



(wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different hydrocarbon radicals with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is an integer between 1 and 10), and

adding the quaternary ammonium compound to water which contacts ~~may contact~~ the inside of the steam generating unit.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for preventing corrosion of metal in a steam generating unit according to Claim 5, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound described by the general formula [1] is added in the range of 0.1-50 mg/L to feed water which contacts ~~may contact~~ the inside of the steam generating unit.

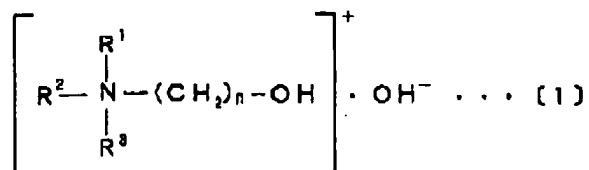
7. (Canceled).

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8. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing corrosion of metal in an atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process, comprising:

preparing a quaternary ammonium compound described by general formula [1] below:



(in which R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different hydrocarbon radicals with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is an integer between 1 and 10), and

adding the quaternary ammonium compound to fluid which contacts ~~may contact~~ the inside of the atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process such that a pH value thereof at the top line of the atmospheric distillation column is 5.5-6.5.

9. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit, comprising:

preparing (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide; and

adding the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide to the desalted crude oil in between a crude oil desalter and a main distillation column in the crude oil atmospheric distillation unit.

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12. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled to 0.1-5 times by molar equivalent the salts content in the desalted crude oil.

13. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the chloride ion concentration or pH of the condensed water in the main distillation unit is measured, and the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled based on the measurement results.

14. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claims 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled such that the chloride ion concentration (sodium chloride conversion) of the overhead receiver water is 0-30 mg/L or the pH of the overhead receiver water is 5.5-7.0.